

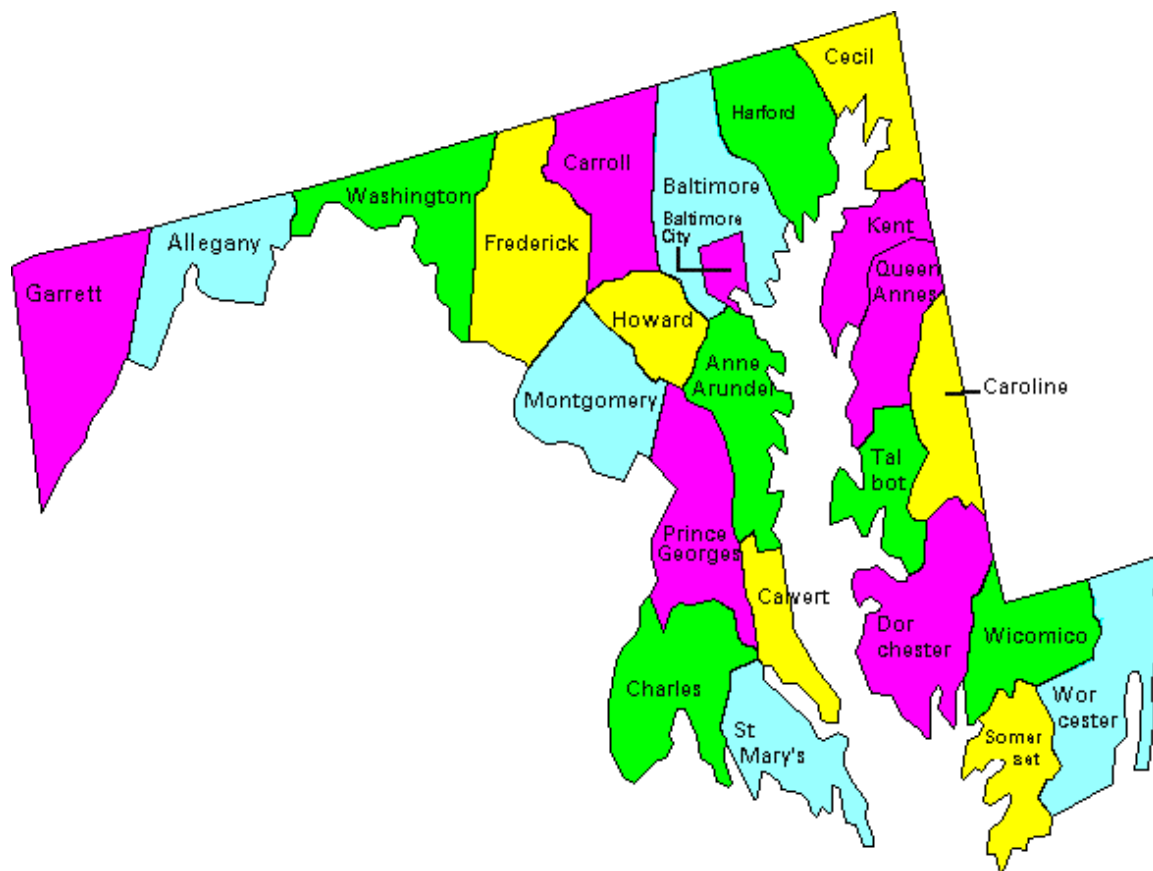
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Baltimore, Maryland

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Baltimore

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 632,681 (1999 estimate); 736,014 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (1990): 39.1% white; 59.2% African American; 0.3% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 1.1% Asian/Pacific Islander; 0.3% other race; 1.0% Hispanic

Politics²

- Mayor: Martin O'Malley
- City Council Members: John L. Cain; Nicholas D'Adamo, Jr.; Lois Garey; Paula Johnson Branch; Bea Gaddy; Bernard C. Young; Robert Curran; Kenneth Harris, Sr.; Lisa Joi Stancil; Keiffer J. Mitchell, Jr.; Agnes Welch; Catherine E. Pugh; Stephanie Rawlings; Helen Holton; Rochelle Spector; Dr. Norman A. Handy, Sr.; Edward L. Reisinger; Melvin L. Stukes

Programs/Initiatives

- Mayor's Coordinating Council on Criminal Justice (MCCCJ)³
This agency is involved in community and interagency efforts to reduce crime, increase the community's capacity to prevent crime, and prevent substance abuse.
- Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁴
Designated in 1994, this HIDTA consists of seven counties in Maryland, the District of Columbia, the four counties in Northern Virginia contiguous to D.C., and the City of Alexandria, Virginia. There are 133 federal, state and local agencies participating in the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA.
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed (EOWS)⁵
 - East Baltimore: The Target Area for this Weed and Seed site is Historic East Baltimore. There are currently approximately 2,500 vacant houses here that are being used as crack houses. 43% of the residents live in poverty, 75% of the families have single heads of household, and 58% of the residents have not earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. This community falls within Baltimore's Eastern District Police Command, the district that has had the highest crime rate per capita of any of the nine Baltimore districts for the past 4 years.
 - There is also a Weed and Seed site found in West Baltimore

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The City of Baltimore accounted for the largest proportion of statewide drug arrests in 1997 (45%) despite the fact that Baltimore represented only 13% of Maryland's total population. At this time, there were 38,539 drug arrests in Maryland, and 17,268 occurred in Baltimore.⁶
- The Baltimore City Police Department has estimated that 40-60% of Baltimore's homicides are drug-related.⁷
- In 1998, there were 662,253 offenses known to the police in Baltimore.⁸

Offenses Known to Police, Baltimore, 1998

Type of Offense	# of Offenses
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	312
Forcible Rape	469
Robbery	7,687
Aggravated Assault	7,556
Burglary	13,177
Larceny-theft	35,938
Motor Vehicle Theft	7,358
Arson	496

- The number of arrests for heroin possession in Baltimore County increased from 87 in the first 9 months of 1996 to 139 over the same period in 1997.⁹

Drugs¹⁰

- Cocaine and Crack
Powder and crack cocaine continue to be available throughout the region. Large quantities of cocaine are being transported to this area by sources in New York City using private automobiles as well as bus and rail transportation.
- Heroin
Most of the heroin found in this area is of the South American variety and comes from New York City. Law enforcement agencies in Baltimore report that the availability of heroin is high in this area. Indicators point to a substantial and growing heroin problem in the suburban counties surrounding Baltimore. Many of the suburban users of this drug travel to inner-city Baltimore to buy the drug. Data from the DEA Domestic Monitoring Program (DMP) indicate a significant increase in heroin purity in the Baltimore area.
- Marijuana
Marijuana is readily available throughout this region and its use continues to rise, especially among juveniles. Much of the marijuana found here comes from Southwest USA and can be linked to commercial parcel services.
- Other Drugs
The distribution and abuse of methamphetamine are increasing throughout the Baltimore region and seems to be available mostly at rave parties. MDMA/Ecstasy is also available, but it does not appear to be a very significant problem to the area.

Trafficking and Seizures

- In February of 1997, the W/B HIDTA provided crucial support to an investigation that culminated in the largest drug seizure in Maryland history. At this time, U.S. Customs and DEA agents seized 1,091 kilograms of cocaine, worth \$25 million, concealed in steel containers in Baltimore. This shipment had been traced from South America to a port in Houston to a marine terminal in Baltimore and, finally, to a Baltimore chemical warehouse.¹¹

Juveniles

- 57.3% of juvenile males surveyed in Baltimore high schools in 1997 reported that they had used marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.¹²

Percent of High School Students Reporting Use of Selected Drugs, Baltimore, 1997

Type of Drug	Male	Female	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	57.3	42.9	49.2
Current Marijuana Use	31.7	19.3	24.7
Lifetime Cocaine Use	2.2	1.8	2.0
Current Cocaine Use	1.2	0.4	0.9
Lifetime Crack or Freebase Use	1.7	1.2	1.5
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	2.9	1.9	2.4
Lifetime Injected Drug Use	2.4	0.4	1.3
Lifetime Use of Other Illegal Drugs	4.5	3.2	3.9
Sniffed or Inhaled Intoxicating Substance	7.4	7.0	7.3

Consequences of Use

- There were 12,748 drug mentions in Baltimore Emergency Departments (ED) from January to June of 1999.¹³
- From the first half of 1998 to the first half of 1999, the number of heroin/morphine mentions in Baltimore EDs increased by 18%.¹⁴

Number of Drug Mentions, Baltimore, First Half '98-First Half '99

Drug Type	First Half 98	First Half 99	% Change
Marijuana	708	826	17%
Cocaine	3,167	3,515	11%
Heroin/Morphine	3,019	3,551	18%

- From January to June 1999, there were 5 methamphetamine/speed ED mentions.¹⁵
- In 1998, Baltimore Medical Examiners (ME) reported 556 drug abuse deaths. This is a 14.6% increase in the number of drug abuse deaths from 1997 (485).¹⁶
- Heroin/morphine was the top-ranking drug among drug abuse ME cases in Baltimore in 1998.¹⁷
- During 1998, there were 2,008 drug mentions reported by Baltimore MEs.¹⁸

Number of ME Drug Mentions, Baltimore, 1998

Drug Type	Number of Mentions
Cocaine	320
Heroin/Morphine	407
Inhalants/Solvents/Aerosols	1
Marijuana/Hashish	----
Methadone	37
Methamphetamine/Speed	----
PCP/PCP Combinations	3

Enforcement

- As of October 31, 1998, Baltimore had 3,769 full-time law enforcement employees. 3,098 of these were officers, and the remaining employees were civilians.¹⁹
- At this same time, the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office employed 138 full-time law enforcement employees. 118 of these employees were officers.²⁰
- Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Initiatives:²¹
 - Violent Traffickers Initiative: This initiative, supervised by the DEA, investigates violent drug traffickers and violent drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) that have an impact on the Baltimore metropolitan area.
 - Major Drug Traffickers Initiative: This Federal, State, and local unit, also supervised by the DEA, is designed to reduce drug trafficking in the Baltimore metropolitan area by focusing on major heroin and cocaine trafficking organizations and distributors.
 - Open Air Drug Market Initiative: This multi-agency initiative, supervised by the Baltimore Police Department, is designed to reduce drug trafficking and violent crime by reducing the number of open air drug markets in Baltimore.
 - Other HIDTA Initiatives found within Baltimore include the following: Violent Crime Safe Streets Initiative; Baltimore City, Wolbrook Initiative; Baltimore City PAL Initiative; and the Mass Transportation Initiative.

Treatment

- The Baltimore City Initiative: This HIDTA program seeks to improve treatment services offered to drug dependant, criminal justice offenders. Criminal justice agencies and treatment providers supply treatment services including the following: assessment; residential/halfway house facilities; and outpatient services.²²
- In 1997, 12,524 people were admitted to treatment in Baltimore.²³

Characteristics of Treatment Admissions, Baltimore, 1997

	Heroin		Cocaine		Marij.	Total
	Injected	Snorted	Crack	Other		
Number of Admissions	3,564	3,417	1,655	654	1,439	12,524
Gender						
Male	56.5%	51.4%	50.6%	68.7%	87.3%	60.8%
Female	43.5%	48.6%	49.4%	31.3%	12.7%	39.2%
Race/Ethnicity						
White	24.3%	8.6%	18.2%	25.7%	25.5%	20.3%
African American	74.7%	90.6%	80.9%	72.8%	72.6%	78.5%
Hispanic	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%
Other	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%

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- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ² City of Baltimore Web site: <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us>
- ³ MCCCJ Web site: <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/other/mccjmain.htm>
- ⁴ Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/dc-main.html>
- ⁵ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ⁶ Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), Volume 1, Issue 5, February 1999
- ⁷ Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, *Threat Assessment 1998-1999*
- ⁸ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998* October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>
- ⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, June 1998*, January 1999
- ¹⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, June 1998*, January 1999
- ¹¹ Washington/Baltimore HIDTA, "A Report to Residents of the Washington-Baltimore Area"
- ¹² CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States*
- ¹³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *Mid-Year 1999 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/DawnMidYr/99mid_year.pdf
- ¹⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/98me_annual.pdf
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports, 1998* October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/dc-main.html>
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, June 1998*, January 1999

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

